

Smith, with David A. Smith, with E. Wesley Smith. I am proud of their acquaintance. There are no better men in my judgment to be found among the people of the Latter-day Saints.

God bless the family of our late President, and may the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ, that was always the greatest thing in the thought of President Smith, be the greatest thing in the affections of his sons and daughters, and their children, and their generations after them for ever and ever.

My brethren and sisters, let us all be faithful. By good lives we can all honor our fathers. We have all had godly fathers, fathers that have been true to the work of God and to the great founders chosen to introduce it, they have ever been willing to lay down their lives if need be for the work revealed in this dispensation. I hope that not only the family of our great president will honor forever the name of their distinguished sire, but that we will all honor our good fathers, and our good mothers, and that we may all recognize and be sure of the fact that we are also enlisted in the cause of Christ, and that we will give to the full, allegiance to the Master.

We are all called to be expounders of the faith of the gospel that made the men who have been our leaders as great and noble as they were. It was the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and living closely to the principles of that gospel, and consecrating their time and service to the advancement of the work of God, that made them all mighty. God help every one of us to be true and steadfast to the same faith, that we also, when we have finished the race we are run-

ning, may have companionship with the great leader of Israel whose memory we honor this day. I pray the blessings of God upon every one in this congregation, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### ELDER CHARLES H. HART

(Of the First Council of Seventy).

It is fitting and proper that this special conference should be convened on the 1st day of June, the 89th anniversary of the holding of the first conference ever held by this Church.

Of course, none of you will understand that Brother Roberts, in using the beautiful and appropriate illustration that he did in the opening of his remarks, meant to uphold kingcraft, because, as most of you know, Brother Roberts has just spent many months at the front, willing to go "over the top," in the contest of democracy against autocracy; but he meant to point out that the Church could say, as Tennyson has his brook say, that "Men may come and men may go, but I go on forever." And it is a very appropriate thing that as men go and men come in these leading positions that we should pause briefly to pay a just tribute to the memory of those who have gone.

I feel it a great honor to say a few words in commemoration of that great character, Joseph F. Smith, the greatest preacher of righteousness, in my opinion, of this dispensation. I have been with his son Hyrum very much, and I think it is appropriate, in view of his recent demise, to mention his name. I have heard him deliver more than fifty sermons in succession, and after each of which I could say "that indeed is worthy of

an apostle of our Lord and Savior." And yet the training of his father was such that I always placed his father first as a great preacher of righteousness.

I may be pardoned if I relate a personal incident which will illustrate the effect of his preaching and his spirit upon myself. Under peculiar circumstances, I came into a meeting at Logan at which he spoke and at which he presided. I had taken a long trip by team through the mountains and held many meetings. It had taken me through the mountains from Cache county to Rich county, from thence to Bear Lake county, and from thence to Wyoming and back to Gem Valley, as they call it now, and through Oneida county. We had held many meetings, and it was cold and there was much loss of sleep and much fatigue, so that when I came into that meeting I was thoroughly exhausted both in body and mind, and it was only by force of circumstances that I was induced to go into his company and the company of the Saints. But under the inspiration of his speaking as the Spirit of God seemed to flow from him to his audience and back again to him, the result upon me was such that at the close of the meeting I was as free from fatigue and weariness as I ever was in my life. I paid special attention to my condition, and could not detect the slightest weariness either in body or in mind. A veteran newspaper reporter who was in attendance to report the speaking, became so absorbed that he failed to take any notes of the inspired talk of President Smith.

I think that the Prophet Joseph F. Smith, had more elements of greatness in him than any other

man that it has been my privilege to know. He was great in a larger number of ways than any other man I ever knew. He was great in courage, and stern in righteousness, and yet there was a rare combination of kindness, meekness and gentleness. He was as kind and loving as a child. In fact it could be said of him that he had "the heart of childhood taken up and matured in the power of manhood." No man would have met death more willingly, in my judgment, for his convictions. He was a man great in his fidelity to his people and to the truth, and great in his testimony of the prophetic calling of the Prophet Joseph and of the divine mission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He had elements of strength so combined that he was indeed a truly great man; the favor of God was upon him. I think he exemplified more than any other man I ever knew the fulfillment of the scriptural injunction and promise to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness," and all other things should be added thereto.

Here are some lines that I think of, in connection with the life and character and ministry of our late lamented Prophet:

"He was one who never turned his back,

But marched breast forward;  
Never doubted clouds would break;  
Never dreamed, though right were  
worsted,

Wrong would triumph.  
He held, we fall to rise, are baffled  
To fight better, sleep to wake."

He was such a man as Holland describes or asks for when he exclaims:

"God give us men. The time demands  
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith  
and willing hands;

Men whom the lust of office does  
not kill;  
Men whom the spoils of office can-  
not buy;  
Men who possess opinions and a will;  
Men who have honor; men who will  
not lie,  
Men who can stand before a dema-  
gogue  
And damn his treacherous flatteries  
without winking;  
Tall men, sun crowned, who live  
above the fog  
In public duty and private thinking!"

I pray the Lord to bless the mem-  
ory of President Joseph F. Smith  
and his posterity. His works will  
live after him. He has left an im-  
pression upon the Church that will  
be enduring. I had the deepest love  
and the greatest admiration for him  
during his life, and I regret that I  
did not let him know at least a frac-  
tional part of the love and admira-  
tion I had for him and his ministry  
and the things he accomplished.  
May the Lord bless his memory  
and bless us that we may follow the  
good example he set for us, I pray  
in the name of Jesus. Amen.

#### ELDER LEVI EDGAR YOUNG

(Of the First Council of Seventy).

I bear you my testimony, my  
brethren and sisters, that all that  
has been said this day in reference  
to the character of President Joseph  
F. Smith is quite true.

I look upon a man as great when  
he stands for great principles; and  
that is the standard by which we  
should judge people. When people  
stand for principle, and know by  
their faith in God that the principle  
is true, it is always a mark of true  
greatness; and when a man links up  
his life with God, becomes one with  
God, and he and God are friends,  
you may depend upon it you have  
the truest standard of greatness that  
can be possibly created.

The glorious thing to me in the  
life of President Joseph F. Smith  
was not only his wonderful strength  
of character, his true conception of  
life, his splendid idealism of re-  
ligion and his great faith in God;  
but his living the divine injunction  
"unless ye can become as a little  
child ye cannot enter the kingdom  
of heaven." He was great in his  
power to understand life and to see  
God. His faith was one of the most  
sublime things I ever knew. He  
never compromised with wrong or  
with evil in any form. Man to him  
is free, but free to do right, not free  
to do wrong. I remember a state-  
ment that he once made concerning  
the meaning of liberty which I shall  
never forget. Said he: "Liberty is  
obedience to just law." That to me  
is one of the most wonderful ideas  
concerning liberty and American-  
ism that I have ever heard. Obe-  
dience to law is liberty. What kind  
of law? Law that is founded on  
truth. Law that is an expression of  
God's will to his people. Therefore,  
he was very democratic. He was  
very loving of his fellow man. How  
true it was that he showed his love  
for God because he loved his fellow  
men so much. He feared no man.  
He loved his God, and with his  
great linking of truth with God's  
truth, he lived a truly inspiring life.  
Standing upon the principle of right  
living, he truly entered the kingdom  
of heaven. "Unless ye become as a  
little child, ye cannot know God."  
To me he was very great, very cour-  
ageous, very brave, very true, and  
above all, he was the child of God.  
He looked up, and with sublime  
faith made his life divine.

May we see the beauty of his life,  
the truth of his words, the greatness  
of his soul, the magnanimity of his  
spirit, his great relationship to God.  
Amen.